

MR. RACINE: MR. Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Good morning.

MR. RACINE: Good morning.

MR. THOMPSON: I guess what we have to over is something --

MR. RACINE: Richard, name, affiliation, please.

MR. THOMPSON: Richard Thompson, I'm with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Fort Hall, Idaho. I'm also the president of Indian Nations Conservation Alliance. What we have to offer goes along with what Ross started and what Tom just mentioned. There's a lot to do with outreach. Even today at this meeting you'll probably find out -- find people from Indian reservations who don't know what programs USDA has to offer. So what we have come up with is -- this is real scratchy, so -- but we -- to add to the Farm Bill. It states to authorize USDA/NRCS to establish 100 tribal district coordinator positions within tribal conservation districts. These positions will operate as district coordinators, will assist tribal districts to carry out their long range plans to bring USDA programs to the tribes and tribal members and Alaska natives, to increase their capacity to own and operate farms and ranches, market crops and care for the natural resources, conduct outreach, help tribal members apply for and bring needed USDA programs to reservations. I think probably throughout the whole -- as long as I've been involved with IAC and now with INCA, you know, that's been one of the main topics I've always heard from people. Like I said, every year when we have these meetings, "Well, what does USDA have to offer? What can we do to help get those programs?" And we now have, I believe, 28 districts, tribal conservation districts, in the United States. As we grow, we can help -- we hope something like this will help educate those and bring in more districts. Thank you.

MR. RACINE: Next.